



Natural Heritage &  
Endangered Species  
Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
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## FORM 2: NATURAL COMMUNITY SUMMARY AND RANKING

(A location map must accompany this form.)

### A. Identifiers:

Community Name (Swain & Kearsley, 2011): \_\_\_\_\_

NatureServe Association or SystemName (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Best Source (The person responsible for the form, include contact information): \_\_\_\_\_

Transcriber (NHESP use only. YY-MM-DD XXX): \_\_\_\_\_ Town Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to site: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Point(s) \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude - \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Community Description:

Vegetation Description (*EODATA*: **Summarize** the vegetation: dominant and/or characteristic species, indicator species, community structure, variants/microhabitat features, unvegetated surface; spatial distribution (i.e., size, number, and separation distance of patches); intact natural processes, geology, hydrology, topography, and soil properties, especially if relevant to the community identification): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated size (acres) \_\_\_\_\_ GIS Acres (if available). \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description (*GENDESC*: Describe the landscape surrounding the community, including the natural area. Both within and surrounding the community, describe: physical structures and land use practices; natural disturbances; embedded, adjacent, and nearby natural communities including aquatic features; notable landforms; scenic qualities): \_\_\_\_\_

Is community on conservation land (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Managed Area Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evidence of Disturbance/Threats to the Community/Management Recommendations** (*MGMTCOM*: Describe the anthropogenic disturbances that have decreased the quality and viability of the community such as hydrologic alterations (ditching, damming, erosion etc.), logging, mining, livestock grazing, plantations, orchards, structures, trampling, and exotic flora or fauna within and surrounding the community. Discuss threats to the site and management implications.): \_\_\_\_\_

**Recreational Use** (evidence of ATV's, ORV's, mountain bikes, horses, walking trails, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**Protection Comments** (*PROTCOM*: Comment on the legal protectability of the site): \_\_\_\_\_

**General Comments** (*COMMENTS*: Note the type of sampling done; observation point (form 1), releve plot (form 3), plant list, etc.; note any additional field work needed. Comment on questionable identification.): \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner's Name** (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** ( \_ \_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is Owner:** aware of community? \_\_yes \_\_no \_\_unknown; **Protecting community?** \_\_yes \_\_no \_\_unknown

**Owner Comments** (*OWNERCOM*: e.g., contact owner prior to visiting the site): \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Community Element Occurrence Ranking:** (Refer to community ranking specifications for assistance.)

**Community Size Rank:** (Compare relative size to other known occurrences, configuration, patchiness)

**A – Excellent    B – Good    C – Marginal    D - Poor**

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Condition Rank:** (Consider development/maturity (e.g., old growth), abiotic condition, species and physiognomic diversity, ecological processes, abundance of exotic species, internal connectivity, degree of anthropogenic disturbance including fragmentation).

**A – Excellent    B – Good    C – Marginal    D - Poor**

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Landscape Context Rank:** (Consider the size and connectivity of the natural landscape, the position of the community within the landscape, and the landscape condition)

**A – Excellent    B – Good    C – Marginal    D - Poor**

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community EO Rank:** (What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality? A summary of all factors listed above. Explain the basis of your ranking: range wide, state wide, or locally.)

**A – Excellent    B – Good    C – Marginal    D - Poor**

**Comments** (*EORANKCOM*: Summarize the above and justify the EO Rank assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**Other rare species and/or natural communities observed at this site** (*NHESP use*) T/U = Transcribed/Updated?):

	SPECIES OR COMMUNITY	T/U?		SPECIES OR COMMUNITY	T/U?
1			4		
2			5		
3			6		

MAPS: required. Insert or attach maps with boundaries of the natural community shown. Show GPS points and tracks. At least one map must be at 1:12,000 scale and show road names, pond names, and/or other identifiable features. Preferred format would be a topo map and an aerial. GoogleEarth maps with road names are acceptable. ALSO provide the GPS points and boundary electronically.

PHOTOS: required Insert or attach photos of the community occurrence. Label the photos with photographer's name, date taken, and where taken. Include information on why each photo is included. (For example, photo of Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Community occurrence at Wings Hole, from the western edge towards the center, showing the variation in shrub layer. Or photo of Atlantic White Cedar Swamp from the center towards the upland, showing hummocks and hollows.)